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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Declaration adopted at the summit of the Western Mediterranean Forum (5+5 Dialogue), held in Malta from 5 to 6 October 2012 (see annex).

I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99.

(*Signed*) Christopher **Grima**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Malta Declaration

Concluding the Second Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Western Mediterranean Forum

5+5 Dialogue

Valletta, 5-6 October 2012

THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT of the Member States of the Western Mediterranean Forum, namely, Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia, meeting on the occasion of the 5+5 Dialogue Summit in Valletta on 5 and 6 October 2012 at the invitation of the Head of Government of Malta, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi, and with the participation as observers of the President of the European Commission, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, the Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, and the Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and the representative of the League of Arab States;

FULLY CONSCIOUS of the vast common heritage of Mediterranean civilization, history and culture that characterizes the sociocultural fabric of the Euro-Mediterranean region and of the shared aspirations by the peoples of the region for a partnership in democracy, stability, security and prosperity;

REAFFIRMING that the 5+5 Dialogue, being the core of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and representing a model of North-South partnership, represents a fundamental instrument for the consolidation of the complementarity and solidarity among the two shores of the Western Mediterranean;

RECALLING the Tunis Declaration released at the First Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Western Mediterranean Forum in December 2003 and the conclusions of the last foreign ministerial meeting held last 20 February in Rome, as well as the sectoral ministerial meetings held since then;

HAVING reviewed the present Summit agenda issues and exchanged views on how to further promote the Western Mediterranean Forum's contribution to enhanced dialogue, constructive regional cooperation and integration;

DECLARE the following:

Declaration of Principles

The Western Mediterranean Forum, being the only homogenous geographical grouping that convenes together the members of the Arab Maghreb Union with its immediate neighbours on the northern shore of the Western Mediterranean, shall conserve and strengthen its political platform for structured dialogue and cooperation in an informal setting;

The Western Mediterranean Forum, consonant with the belief that regional economic integration is conducive to economic growth, shall support the strengthening of the process of integration between the Maghreb countries and the ongoing deepening of relations between the Arab Maghreb Union and the European Union based on a shared vision of co-responsibility and co-ownership;

The Western Mediterranean Forum shall continue to enhance the synergized linkages between the various regional organizations in promoting peace, stability, security and prosperity. The Western Mediterranean Forum reaffirms the importance of the dialogue between the Arab Maghreb Union and the European Union, underlines its interest in deepening the relations between the two parties, and calls for the establishment of regular meetings between the two organizations;

The Heads of State and Government attach high importance to the regularity of the Western Mediterranean Forum meetings at different levels in ensuring the implementation of the agreed objectives. The foreign ministerial meetings shall continue to provide the guiding force to the sectoral ministerial meetings in the formulation of regional polices on specific fields of activity through planning and priorities coordination in the advancement of common positions in sectoral cooperation and integration through the coordination action of the *Comite de Suivi*;

The Western Mediterranean Forum remains highly sensitive to and supportive of the holding of sectoral ministerial meetings, and the involvement of civil society and Parliaments, in areas that influence and determine the region's general economic and social well-being. It underlines its support to the Union for the Mediterranean and the importance of continuing through the path of concrete projects in the Mediterranean, including with the Deauville Partnership initiated through the G8 in May 2011. It praises the role that the secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean can play in that sense and backs the regular presence of the secretariat of the UfM in the Western Mediterranean Forum's meetings;

The Western Mediterranean Forum remains open to the possibility of creating new thematic areas of dialogue and cooperation, including new priority areas like employment, investment, trade and agriculture;

Political dialogue

Premising that the political transformation experienced in the Maghreb countries is opening a new phase in the wider regional dynamics that increasingly places importance on dialogue and cooperation among civil and institutional partners for garnering a deeper mutual understanding,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Welcomes the process of democratic reform that has been initiated in the region aiming at reinforcing the shared values among the Member States and vouches its support to the people's legitimate aspirations to their political future based on democratic values, the rule of law, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, social justice and prosperity;
- Welcomes the steps towards the democratization process undertaken by Tunisia and Libya and expresses its full support to alleviate the social and economic impact, aiming at the full implementation of their institutional reforms;

- Underscores its belief in open political and civil dialogue through a continued process of interregional organization contacts with a view to developing ideas and concrete actions;

- Welcomes the coming summit of the Arab Maghreb Union and expresses its confidence that this will mark a renewed stronger cooperation between the countries of the region in all areas of common interest;

- Acknowledges that public opinion, civil society organizations and social networking are increasingly acquiring relevance and importance in the policymaking process, underlines the importance of think tanks and public diplomacy institutions in analysing regional trends and drivers for change, and welcomes the initiative by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) to set up a subregional network of the think tanks of the 5+5 countries to develop research on how to promote regional integration and cooperation between the countries concerned;

Regional security and stability

Premising that collective security and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean region are indivisible and that the cooperative security philosophy nurtured over these last two decades has developed into strategic significance to the region in the assessment of countering sources of insecurity and common threats in regional dynamics,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Underscores the necessity to engage more actively in regional security issues in view of favouring the boosting of regional cooperation and to confront future challenges together through a stronger neighbourhood;

- Considering also the destabilizing threats originating in neighbouring regions, calls for a stronger sense of ownership of the concerned countries of their security and stability and a stronger cooperation among all relevant actors to fight against transnational terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking, especially with training activities, technology transfer, intelligence cooperation and development aid;

- Reaffirms the relevance of improving the mechanisms of protection and response in cases of natural catastrophes aiming to reduce their consequences to civil populations;

- Underscores the importance to continue the efforts that have been made to reinforce the system of civil protection in order to allow it to guarantee the physical integrity of citizens, as stressed by the Conference of Ministers of the Interior of the Western Mediterranean Member States (CIMO) in 2009;

- Expresses concern about the dissemination of weapons and unsecured material, which is threatening regional stability and resolves to continue inter-state communication and intelligence sharing in order to effectively combat transnational arms trafficking;

- Supports initiatives that help build capacities able to prevent and respond to regional crises through long-term dialogue and structured cooperation in the

fields of conflict prevention, risk assessment, crisis response and peacebuilding;

- Appreciates the outstanding achievements made by the 5+5 Defence Initiative under successive Presidencies and currently held by Morocco through exceptional cooperation, transparency, and mutual trust in the fields of common interests among the Member States, and welcomes the degree of maturity that this dialogue has reached confirming the efficient and pragmatic cooperation of this framework which enables, thus, the implementation of joint actions and exchange of experiences among countries of the region;

- Expresses satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation in maritime surveillance, and the Armed Forces' contribution to civil protection, air security, training and research;

- Calls, in this regard, to work towards strengthening and developing the 5+5 Defence Initiative, in order to enhance prevention and reaction abilities;

- Supports the Agreement on the Manual of Common Procedures for the use of the Points of Contracts network in managing a major disaster situation affecting one of the 5+5 Defense Initiative member States, signed by the Heads of delegations of the Steering Committee in Nouakchott on 10 March 2011, and encourages the signing of a consensual agreement for mutual assistance, mainly through cooperation with the other 5+5 forums;

- While recalling the Rome Conclusions of the 5+5 Dialogue Foreign Ministerial meeting, reiterates its stance on the shared position that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East must be achieved through the resumption of negotiations on all final status issues that are conducive to a two-State solution with a State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, on the basis of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative. The 5+5 affirms its shared position not to recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by both parties, including with regard to Jerusalem. It stresses its common position that Israeli settlements anywhere in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace;

- Welcomes the reconfirmation by international donors of their assessment of the state readiness of the Palestinian Authority, regarding institutions during the last Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) meeting. It expresses grave concern at the severe fiscal crisis and economic slowdown that hamper the Palestinian Authority's ability to sustain its state-building achievements. The 5+5 Dialogue calls on international donors to meet the financing gap of the Palestinian Authority treasury and, while recalling the last AHLC Chair's Summary, calls on Israel to take positive steps to enable sustainable economic development in the Palestinian territories, including in area C and in the Gaza Strip;

- Reaffirms its full support to the United Nations Secretary-General and the Arab League's envoy;

- Expresses its strong condemnation of the continuous acts of murder, violence and heinous crimes committed by the Syrian government forces and its militias; condemns all violence whichever side it comes from and calls for its immediate end. The Syrian regime should be the first one to put an end to such violence. The 5+5 Dialogue stresses the importance of ensuring accountability, the need to end impunity and hold those responsible for human rights violations, urges the Syrian regime to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of civilians and allow immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to the vulnerable populations and stresses the importance of the unity of Syria;

- Calls for the immediate formation of a consensus transitional government in Syria that enjoys all the powers and leads Syria to a democratic and pluralistic political regime;

- Underlines that those whose presence would undermine the transition should be excluded;

- Reaffirms its full support to the United Nations Secretary-General and the Arab League's Envoy, H.E. Lakhdar Brahimi, to remain fully seized of the Syrian crisis, and encourages all parties to cooperate in bringing an immediate end to violence and human rights violations, securing a Syrian-led political transition;

- Expresses its support to the regional strategy developed by the countries of the Sahel region which aim at building a secure and developed region and based on the principles of ownership by the aforementioned countries of their regional security and their individual and collective responsibility in the fight against terrorism and on the active partnerships engaged by the main actors within enlarged strategies in this region;

- In this regard, welcomes the results of the Algiers High Level Conference on the Sahel (7-8 September 2011) as well as the European strategy for the Sahel, and agrees to cooperate closely in this framework;

- Remains concerned about the situation of instability and insecurity in Mali, particularly in the North, and calls for a meaningful cooperation and rapid solution which preserves the territorial integrity, the national unity and the sovereignty of Mali in order to address the negative impact of this situation on peace and stability in the region;

- Reaffirms the necessity to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, which jeopardize the security and stability of the region;

- Commends the action of the United Nations Security Council and encourages the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through its mediation and the African Union in their efforts towards a comprehensive solution to the Malian crisis;

- Welcomes the outcome of the regional ministerial meeting on border security, held in Tripoli, on 11 and 12 March 2012, and stresses the importance to continue cooperation with neighbouring countries in this regard;

- Welcomes the decisions of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union regarding cooperation in security matters;

Economic and social issues

Premising that social and economic stability and development, shared prosperity job creation, environmental protection, regional integration and reduction of social disparities are the main objectives of the economic and social cooperation of the 5+5 Group;

Premising that a wide range of international factors including political, economic, environmental and social challenges, as well as the fluctuations in food and oil prices, are likely to influence the evolution of the Western Mediterranean region in the coming decade,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Expresses its support to the ongoing efforts of the public and private actors aiming at increasing economic cooperation, joint ventures creation and technology transfers between the countries of the region, and agrees on the need to further improve the legal and administrative frameworks to facilitate the creation of private enterprises and investment;
- Underlines the importance of supporting the development of small and medium-size enterprises as a vehicle of economic growth and job creation, and welcomes the creation of a financial mechanism through the Mediterranean Partnership Fund (MPF) to assist small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in the region;
- Welcomes the high-level experts seminar on food security held in Algiers on 6 and 7 February 2012 as a follow-up of the recommendations of the 8th 5+5 Foreign Ministers meeting in Tunis, and expresses its appreciation for the results of this seminar, especially the idea of creating a food security observatory as well as a follow-up mechanism, which should hold its first meeting in Algiers. It encourages the creation of a new 5+5 sectoral ministerial meeting on agriculture and food security;
- Resolves to promote rural development, which is crucial for the countries of the South in creating adequate conditions for the revitalization of rural territories and to contribute to sustainable improvement in the income and living conditions in the Maghreb region;
- Notes with interest initiatives and proposals in favour of the conversion of public debt into development projects which could be implemented to promote development in the Maghreb countries;
- Calls for a coordinated effort by all relevant actors in view of the creation of a common space of stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean and reiterates its purpose to act in close cooperation with all existing frameworks and initiatives, like the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Arab Maghreb Union and the Deauville Partnership;
- Also reiterates the need to accelerate the implementation of trade facilitation measures and promote investment in major physical infrastructures that contributes to promoting trade and investment among countries in the region;
- Continues to hold the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) as one of the practical contributions to the economic and social development of the Mediterranean by financing concrete projects that

continue to support the modernization and opening up of national economies through participation by the private sector and the creation of an investment-friendly environment;

- Reiterates the importance of economic and commercial integration, especially in the field of protection and promotion of investments in the Mediterranean area, which remains crucial to develop the attractiveness of the region;

- Welcomes the seventh meeting of the 5+5 Ministers of Transport hosted by Algiers on 13 March 2012, and stresses the importance of cooperation in the transport sector, which is essential for economic development and regional integration, and welcomes the labelling of the trans-Maghreb highway project, by the Union for the Mediterranean;

- Underlines the strategic role of tourism in the economy of the Western Mediterranean countries, and calls for the creation of a common approach to stimulate cooperation and for the rebooting of the ministerial conference on tourism;

- Welcomes the initiative of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for MSME in Milan, which will contribute to the economic and social development of the region through the provision of financial and technical assistance to investors in the area;

- Welcomes the initiative of the Centre fore Mediterranean Integration (CMI), in Marseille, that gathers Southern countries and financial institutions, and aims at providing technical assistance and knowledge-sharing in a joint platform, in order to contribute to the prosperity of the region as a whole;

Education and youth

Premising that education and the enhancement of youth's potential is a fundamental element for the development and the prosperity of the Mediterranean region,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Supports initiatives aiming at creating an effective and competitive Regional Innovation Ecosystem through the reinforcement of cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation policies, training and research and development activities;

- Supports initiatives that can be taken to develop education and training. To enhance the employability of youth, measures to develop vocational education and training will be encouraged. A Euro-Mediterranean qualifications framework based on the recognition and transfer of skills and qualifications could be offered to the 10 countries;

- Encourages institutions of higher education to sign cooperation agreements to foster the mobility of students and teachers, to implement joint degrees according to the respective national rules and to create common academic research programmes;

- Continues to encourage the construction of a regional network of civil society representatives, including those operating in the social assistance sector that aim at increasing public awareness and promoting a multicultural dialogue

among disabled and socially disadvantaged youth through active citizenship, self-determination and equal rights. "HandyCup" is one such fertile network in which knowledge, exchange of experience and common objectives for a better quality of life in peace among disabled youth can flourish across the region, as well as through its successful Mediterranean Sail Social Network;

Migration and development

Premising that there is need for a global and shared approach to migration as an effective development tool and that well-managed legal migration properly assisted through suitable policies and mechanisms could have positive effects on countries of origin, transit and destination through migrants' contributions;

Convinced of the benefits of mobility of people between Member States of the Dialogue that could take the form of simplifying procedures on a reciprocal basis;

Premising that the management of migratory flows cannot be achieved through control measures only, but also needs a concerted action on the root causes of migration, which requires the development of an effective, rapid and tangible solidarity embodying both the imperatives of sustainable development and security for all;

Premising that it is necessary to deal firmly and effectively with irregular migration in full respect of migrants' dignity and rights in order to prevent it undermining the benefits of legal migration,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Emphasizes the indispensable respect for and guarantee of fundamental human rights of migrants according to international Conventions and Charters, and encourages Member States to implement the various recommendations hitherto put forth by the sectoral ministerial conclusions, including the holding of consultations between Member States in the wider framework of dialogues on migration, mobility and security between the Southern neighbourhood and the European Union;
- Underlines the positive benefits of facilitating the integration of legally established migrants in host countries in terms of stability and mutual understanding;
- Calls for the development of mechanisms aiming at supporting the reintegration of legal migrants in the countries of origin;
- Acknowledges that facilitating the transfer of migrants' remittances, also through the possible reduction in the cost of transfer, will contribute to the development of the migrants' countries of origin, including the development of SMEs;
- Remains collectively committed to the exploration of practical and effective means that would reinforce the institutional, human and technical capabilities as well as appropriate mechanisms to identify the required resources in preventing and combating irregular migration and strengthening the fight against smuggling, trafficking of human beings and illegally obtained assets;
- Emphasizes the importance of combating exclusion, xenophobia and racism and of removing integration obstacles for legal migrants in order to harness

their full potential to contribute to the development of countries of origin and destination;

- Supports the adoption of a new global and balanced approach to mobility, circular mobility, joint management of migratory flows and co-development, and acknowledges the importance of remittances for the economic growth and the development of the South Mediterranean countries;

- Supports the dialogue on migration, mobility and security between the Mediterranean countries and the European Union with a view to agreeing on mutually satisfactory arrangements. In this regard, it welcomes the start of the dialogue on mobility partnerships between the European Union and certain Mediterranean countries;

Global issues

Premising that the United Nations is held as the foremost forum in addressing issues of great social concern that affect human populations as a guiding reference to regional stakeholders in dealing with global issues;

Premising that the 2009 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) World Summit on Food Security put forward pledges for renewed commitment to eradicate hunger from the face of the Earth and that food security is essential not only on the ethical and humanitarian levels, but also as a prerequisite for economic and social development,

The 5+5 Dialogue:

- Fully supports the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference held in June 2012, and renews its regional commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for present and future generations while recognizing the centrality of the people in the endeavours to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to prepare the post-2015 agenda also in the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);

- Acknowledges that climate change is best addressed as an environmental, economic and social issue with broad implications for all facets of sustainable development and undertakes to promote dialogue on these issues in its sectoral meetings;

- Calls for a concrete follow-up of the Oran conference on environment and renewable energy outcomes (26-27 April 2010), and encourages Ministers in charge of this sector to hold the second conference, due to be hosted by Portugal, so as to take appropriate measures in this framework;

- Resolves to achieve lasting food security by addressing the three related issues of food availability, accessibility and affordability and thus cooperate intraregionally and interregionally in sustaining agriculture and in promoting new investment in the sector, improving governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors, proactively meeting the challenges of climate change on food security and promoting rural development;

- Reiterates the common determination to cooperate in adopting a strategic approach to energy security, striking a new balance between the consumption of conventional energy based on the common interests of consumer and producer countries and the adoption of technological advancements in producing renewable and sustainable energy sources that support economic growth and social development, also through trans-med projects that seek to exploit available funds and research and development in renewable energies for the benefit of the regional partners;

- Stresses the importance of developing cooperation in energy efficiency, friendly environment energy sources and clean technology transfer, taking advantage of the important solar and wind potential in member countries and the existing regional and subregional initiatives;

- Acknowledges the importance of water, and calls for the definition of a West Mediterranean water strategy promoting conservation of water resources, diversifying water provision resources and efficient and sustainable use of water. The strategy should be based on the technical work developed within the UfM for the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean. The 5+5 Dialogue invites the EU Commission to support this strategy;

Summit follow-up

Convinced that the 5+5 Dialogue continues to be a relevant and complementary forum for enhanced dialogue and regional integration within the wider Euro-Mediterranean framework of cooperation,

Conscious that the States constituting the 5+5 Dialogue need to cooperate and integrate further in a collective effort to render the region more democratically consolidated, more regionally integrated and less vulnerable to regional instability,

Welcoming the European Union's intention to develop new proposals towards the Maghreb countries and region, in particular with a view to enhance political dialogue and cooperation, support regional trade and subregional integration, the development of key energy and transport infrastructure, the encouragement of renewable energy and other sectoral proposals, and calling on the European Union to adopt and implement these initiatives swiftly,

Welcoming the Union for the Mediterranean secretariat's readiness to help implement these agreed projects and the priorities of the ministerial conferences on sectoral issues,

WE, HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT, of the Western Mediterranean Forum invite the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to ensure the follow-up of this Declaration through the Forum's structures and in close contact with the relevant international partners and particularly invite them to:

- Convene a Conference on Youth of the Western Mediterranean, involving all relevant governmental and international institutions;

- Open the next foreign ministerial meeting, due to be held in Mauritania, in March 2013, to representatives of civil society of the 5+5 Member States;

- Invite Parliamentarians and local authorities from all our countries, as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), to develop a fruitful

dialogue and to make their valuable contribution to the achievement of the objectives and priorities set out in this declaration, as well as to the well-being of the people of our region;

- Welcome Portugal's offer to assume the co-presidency of the 5+5 Dialogue after Italy.

FINALLY, WE extend our thanks to the Honourable Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta, his Government and the People of Malta for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Summit, which continues to underscore Malta's regional standing as a centre of dialogue.

Annex

Summary of the 5+5 Malta Summit Declaration

Valletta, 5-6 October 2012

Outcomes emerging from the Summit

A. The Heads of State or Government discussed the following themes and arrived at the following conclusions

Institutional

- Increase synergies between various regional formations (EU, Arab Maghreb Union, League of Arab States) and cooperation and funding structures such as the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- Ensure regularity of sectoral meetings, and encourage the participation of civil society and parliamentarians to the 5+5 Dialogue;
- Remain open to the possibility of creating new thematic areas of dialogue and cooperation, including new priority areas like employment, investment, trade, agriculture and energy.

Regional

- Build upon the process of democratic reform, and political transformation currently under way in Southern partners and reinforce democratic values, fundamental human rights and social justice;
- Encourage regional integration, and in this regard look forward to the results of the upcoming Summit of the Arab Maghreb Union;
- Engage more actively in addressing issues that might cause destabilization in the region, such as terrorism, abduction of persons, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking of weapons in regions of specific concern, such as the Sahel;
- Respond more effectively to, and work to prevent, regional crises in terms of conflict prevention, risk assessment and crisis response;
- Further reinforce cooperation in all sectors of the 5+5 Dialogue.

Economic and social

- Increase economic cooperation, joint ventures and technology transfers and undertake to improve the legal and administrative frameworks to facilitate the creation of job opportunities, private enterprise and investment;
- Provide focused assistance to small and medium enterprises as a vehicle of economic growth and job creation;
- Accelerate the implementation of trade facilitation measures and investment promotion;
- Further intensify cooperation in the transport sector, which is essential for economic development and regional integration;

- Identify a common approach to tourism in the region;
- Support the creation of a network between the trade chambers of the Maghreb countries.

Education and youth

- Support initiatives to develop education and training aimed at enhancing the employability of youth;
- Mobility of students and teachers will be encouraged together with the creation of common academic research programmes;
- Generally promote the specific requirements of youth such as science, technology, innovation, training and research and development activities;
- Call for the organization of a Conference on Youth of the Western Mediterranean.

Migration and development

- Endorse a global approach to migration as an effective development tool;
- Consider simplifying procedures on a reciprocal basis with the aim of facilitating and encouraging mobility of people among the 5+5 Member States;
- Firmly address irregular migration in full respect of migrants' dignity and human rights;
- Take action to combat exclusion, xenophobia and racism and remove any obstacles to integration;
- Encourage the development of mechanisms aimed at supporting the reintegration of legal migrants in the countries of origin.

Global issues

- Continue to be guided by the United Nations in addressing issues of global impact such as sustainable development, climate change, water and environment;
- Engage an active cooperation in food security and rural development as a prerequisite for economic and social development;
- Adopt a strategic approach to energy security based on the common interest of consumer and producer countries that supports economic growth and social development, also through trans-Mediterranean projects and develop cooperation in energy efficiency.

B. Upcoming ministerial meetings and other forums

- Ministerial meeting of the 5+5 Defence Initiative, Morocco, December 2012
- Foreign ministerial meeting, Nouakchott, Mauritania, March 2012
- Conference of Ministers of Interior (CIMO), Algeria, 2013

- UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, France, 2013
- The Economic Business Forum, Barcelona, Spain, 2013

C. Regional initiatives

IEMed Initiative — The European Institute of the Mediterranean shall set up a subregional network of think tanks from the 5+5 countries to develop research on how to promote regional integration and cooperation between the countries concerned.

PROMOS Initiative — The Milan Chamber of Commerce/PROMOS will set up a regional network of centres aimed at providing services to SMEs.